

S-E-C-R-E-T

22 May 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs
FROM: Chief, FBIS
SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. The following actions were taken in connection with recent Cuban developments:

a. FBIS' entire coverage of Moscow broadcasts to Latin America was temporarily transferred to the BBC to enable East and West Coast Bureaus to concentrate on Latin American transmitters.

b. [redacted] East Coast Monitor and former Chief of the Key West Post, was sent to the Post from 19 April to 10 May to assist with cruising and coverage of Cuban clandestine stations.

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[redacted]

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d. [redacted] West Coast Monitor, was detailed to the East Coast Bureau from 29 April to 10 May to increase that station's capability to cope with increased Latin American coverage requirements occasioned by the Cuban crisis.

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e. During the crisis, three headquarters staff members assisted East Coast Bureau personnel for several nights in cruising for Cuban and clandestine broadcasts. [redacted]

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2. African Bureau

a. Headquarters approved award of contract for station construction to the low bidder, D'Alberto and Bogialla, Ltd., at a cost of \$47,000. Work started immediately and the contractor has made rapid initial progress. The site has been cleared and a temporary access road completed. After site clearance, it was obvious that the closest farm would undoubtedly require relocation, at a cost of about 50 pounds.

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b. Sites for the four houses have been cleared and work continues to progress rapidly. Pouring of concrete for the foundation of one house has been completed and the manufacture of concrete blocks at the sites continues.

c. With the arrival of equipment two additional temporary monitoring positions have been completed. Three positions now provide for an intensified monitor training and cruising program.

d. Training of the African Bureau's two foreign language monitors and the cruising monitor continues. The Bureau's first monthly production report indicated a daily average of 150 words of publishable wordage filed to Washington during April. [REDACTED]

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3. Puerto Rico Survey

a. In support of the reception survey team sent to Puerto Rico on 1 May 1961, arrangements were completed with the Department of Defense for support and loan of equipment. Through additional contacts it was learned that STARCOM (Strategic Army Communications) is now constructing a major communications relay center close to the Ponce area. Reception tests have been authorized at their new receiver site at Salinas which is approximately 20 miles east of Ponce.

b. Due to a decision to test reception of radio teletype circuits, and installation of more complex equipment to meet the requirement, [REDACTED] Assistant Chief Engineer, ECB, accompanied the team for a two-week period. In addition to checking radio teletype circuits, he will insure that adequate reception facilities are installed and that all equipment is functioning properly before he returns. [REDACTED]

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4. Through the FBIS Wire Service, President Kennedy received the text of Khrushchev's 22 April message considerably in advance of official delivery or commercial news service reportage. According to an NSC liaison contact, whose office screens Wire Service material for White House staff use, the Khrushchev text, monitored by Mediterranean Bureau from TASS Cyrillic, was torn off the Executive Office Building printer page by page and sent directly to a special session of the National Security Council then meeting in the White House. The material was scanned by Mr. McGeorge Bundy, Presidential Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, and passed to the President who read the statement to the Council. NSC staff expressed its great appreciation for this unusually valuable service. [REDACTED]

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5. Three White House officials began receiving FBIS publications regularly in April. Brig. Gen. Chester V. Clifton, Military Aide to the President; Mr. W. W. Rostow, Deputy Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; and Mr. Pierre Salinger, Presidential Press Secretary, henceforth will receive copies of each Radio Propaganda Report,

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Daily Report Supplement, and World Reaction Report series by special messenger from OCI. In addition, the President's Special Assistant for Science and Technology, Dr. Jerome Wiesner, will receive one copy of each RPR dealing with bloc propaganda on scientific matters. [REDACTED]

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6. Mr. Charles L. Stermer, an analyst from the Department of State's Office of Research and Analysis, Asian Communist Areas Division, was detailed to FBIS Headquarters for two weeks to supervise preparation of background materials for use by the U.S. delegation to the projected 14-nation conference on Laos. Separate volumes of Daily Report material on Laos dating back to August 1960 from Moscow, Peking, Hanoi and Pathet Lao broadcasts were assembled and indexed by a team of FBIS editorial and clerical personnel working with Mr. Stermer and [REDACTED] of FDD. The project was completed 28 April. [REDACTED]

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7. During the month such developments as the Soviet Union's first manned space flight, the abortive invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro contingents, and the French generals' revolt in Algeria provided so much radio and press material of intelligence-community interest that special measures had to be taken to accommodate consumers. The wire version of the "Pink Sheet" was greatly expanded for transmission to headquarters and field recipients, and the daily file on the FBIS Wire itself was increased from an average of 21,000 to an all-time high of 55,000 on 22 April, the day the Algerian revolt began. On that Saturday the Wire filed directly to Camp David for the specific attention of President Kennedy, while duty editors maintained constant telephone contact with Camp David to insure uninterrupted receipt of the 239 items transmitted. On the following Monday, 24 April, the Daily Report's Latin America volume, normally only 25 pages in length, was increased to 58 because of the weekend accumulation of Latin American reaction to the Cuban affair. [REDACTED]

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8. FBIS support for the US delegation to the Geneva conference on Laos began on 11 May following consultation with the Agency representative with the delegation. This continuing service includes texts of authoritative statements on the conference from the participating countries, as well as capsule summaries of bloc leader statements, wirefiled to Geneva by FBIS European, Far Eastern, and domestic bureaus; daily roundups of relevant bloc propaganda prepared by the London Bureau, also wirefiled to Geneva; and daily classified analyses of Moscow, Peking, Hanoi and dissident Laotian propaganda on the conference and related issues, prepared by the Radio Propaganda Branch and forwarded through OCI channels as part of the Agency support cables to the delegation. [REDACTED]

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9. Of 199 items included in the Current Intelligence Digest during April, 78 (39.1 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [REDACTED]

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10. During the month 88 percent of Daily Report pages were devoted to broadcast material and 12 percent to press scrutiny. [REDACTED]

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11. In early April the Latin American Programs Section, Development and Operations Division, the Peace Corps, requested regular distribution of the Latin America Daily Report. This was the first request from the new agency for FBIS service. [redacted]

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12. On 4 May, at the request of the Director, a Special Memorandum was issued on the subject "Allegations of CIA Involvement in the Algerian Generals' Revolt." The memorandum contained selected broadcasts and an FBIS-prepared summary. [redacted]

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PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT [redacted]

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1. Radio Propaganda Reports issued (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. "Mammoth Soviet Propaganda Effort Exploits Manned Space Flight" [redacted]

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b. "Divergent Soviet and CPR Views on the 'National Liberation Movement'" [redacted]

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c. "Increasing Strain in Albanian Relations with Moscow and the European Satellites" [redacted]

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2. Propaganda Analysis Items on the FBIS Wire (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. Two more spot analyses of bloc propaganda on the Laotian situation were disseminated on the Wire, bringing the total in this series to ten. [redacted]

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b. "Soviet Reaction to Cuban Developments" [redacted]

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c. "Li Fu-chun Dismissal Suggests Shift in Organization of Planning in CPR" [redacted]

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d. "Increased Stridency of Communist Clandestine Broadcasts in Persian" [redacted]

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3. RPB Special Services

a. The last of a series of four weekly Special Memoranda on "Omissions in the Soviet Home Service," prepared for the Director at his request, was forwarded on 3 May. (Compiled by [redacted] with contributions from all analysts; support from London Bureau)

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b. A report on "Radio Peking's Broadcasts to Latin America" was prepared [redacted] based on a special study compiled by Editor [redacted] of the West Coast Bureau at RPB's request.

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c. Sixteen analyses of Soviet propaganda on the nuclear testing issue were cabled to the U.S. delegation at the Geneva nuclear test-ban talks, in a continuing service. (Analyst:)

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d. In another continuing service, data was supplied to USIA/IRI for use in weekly briefings of the Assistant Director, USIA, on bloc broadcasts to Africa, the Near and Middle East, and South Asia. (Analyst:)

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4. The following are among Radio Propaganda Reports projected or under consideration for publication within the next few months (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. "Soviet Outer-Space Projects and Programing" (in the regular series for OSI/GMD; Soviet science spokesmen's prognoses for the future following the manned space flight will be examined)

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b. "Soviet Broadcasts to and about the Kurds" (Support being provided by the Mediterranean Bureau)

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c. "Soviet Provincial Press Treatment of Centrally Distributed Articles" (Support being provided by FDD)

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d. "Problems Encountered in the Administration of CPR Communes"

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EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENT

GENERAL

1. Bureaus contributing material on the Cuban invasion, the generals' revolt in Algeria, and the first U.S. manned rocket flight are to be congratulated for their good performance.
2. Bureaus are reminded that BBC cannot use press scrutiny and certain news agency material. This should be borne in mind when material is available from diverse sources, and voice broadcast versions should be used where possible.
3. Receipt of numerous improperly drafted correction and other service messages makes it necessary to remind the field that Editorial Handbook procedures must be followed. Editors should identify fully each item to which the correction applies. They should also avoid servicing more than one item in a single message when there is a possibility that separate desks, units, or even separate sections are concerned.
4. Requirements for FBIS services accepted by Liaison and Requirements Staff resulted in several requests for field support. Tokyo, London, Mediterranean and East Coast Bureaus were asked to supply tape recordings or program summaries of Moscow broadcasts and transcripts of Russian and Cuban press material in response to a Voice of America requirement in connection with a current study of VOA programing and news coverage by a Congressional committee. London Bureau was asked to supply Swahili language tapes for use in the Army's language training program. While coverage of military portions of bloc May Day parades is a long-standing routine service to the intelligence community, FBIS bureaus might be interested to know that this coverage is also in response to specific annual requirements levied by the Department of Defense which receives this material on a priority basis by Wire. East Coast Bureau provided tape recordings of Moscow in English, Vietnamese and Indonesian for the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Department of the Army.

London Bureau

1. East Europe press services, for example TANYUG and PAP, often carry items couched in poor English. It would be appreciated if editors exercised greater care in eliminating faulty grammar and poor construction generally. In East Europe logographs, the designation "East Berlin" should be used for both voicecasts and ADN items.
2. Abbreviations that are not readily recognizable, such as CPCz and BCP for the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and Bulgarian Communist Party, respectively, should be avoided.

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U-N-C-L-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D

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Mediterranean Bureau

1. Editors and monitors are commended for an excellent job in processing the UAR 1961-1962 draft budget, which was published as a supplement and distributed in response to requests far exceeding the number anticipated. It was interesting to note that the EBC published a text of the draft in its Summary of World Broadcasts. Equally well handled by the bureau was the current radio press interview granted by the Shah of Iran, likewise of great interest to consumers.

2. When appropriate, projected surveys of Soviet regional radios should be coordinated with Hokkaido. It would also be advisable to keep headquarters informed of bureau plans for survey projects.

German Bureau

1. FYI's rather than administrative messages should be used to inform headquarters that there will be no review of West German radio and press for a particular day. FYI's are passed directly to the section concerned whereas administrative messages may receive delayed distribution.

2. The bureau's file can be further compressed by cutting back on press scrutiny items reporting discussions of paintings and Kreis-level youth activities. Also, low-level economic material from the press need not be processed.

Okinawa Bureau

1. It is noted that the definite article is being dropped more and more frequently, especially in NCNA copy. Editors are requested to insert articles where necessary, for example in "Commentator said..." and "Paper went on...", etc.

ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATION

X 1. Bureaus are requested to double-address to the EBC all wirefiled semi-monthly and monthly coverage change reports. In addition, Bureaus should henceforth mail to the EBC a copy of each complete coverage schedule submitted with their Progress Reports

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2. Bureaus are reminded that whenever a schedule or frequency change takes place during the course of a coverage reporting period, the average reception rating shown for the program concerned should reflect only conditions after the change.

3. Field Bureaus are requested to report whenever Soviet bloc telecasts are carried live by other countries, both in Eastern and Western Europe. Examples of such telecasts are the recent Gagarin reception in Moscow and the Moscow May Day parade, which were telecast over networks in Central and Western Europe. Announcements of upcoming network tele-

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casts and information on which countries actually carry them live should be filed to BIS.

4. All field bureaus are again reminded that broadcast items concerning new radio programs, new transmitting facilities, radio and television exchange agreements and other items containing background information on foreign radio developments should be filed "COPY TO BIS." In recent months an increasing number of such items were not so flagged.

5. Radio Moscow changed to its summer schedule for international broadcasts on April 25. The various field bureaus are to be commended for their promptness in filing preliminary announcements and for their efforts in confirming the various language schedules.

6. The addition to the Okinawa Bureau Operations Building is now 90 percent complete. Headquarters has also authorized expansion of the bureau's editorial and teletype rooms, at an estimated cost of \$5,000, from FY 61 funds.

7. To support TV monitoring the Key West Post was recently sent a Polaroid camera and tripod. Also, a new and more powerful TV receiving antenna will be installed by local contract.

8. The full duplex common-user communications circuit from Headquarters to the Pentagon was changed over to the new automatic East Coast Relay Station at Fort Detrick, Maryland, on schedule, becoming the first FBIS 100 wpm circuit.

9. The allocated communications circuit to Tokyo has been rerouted by the Army through Seattle instead of San Francisco, without effect on FBIS communications.

10. The Pioneer Electric and Research Corporation has loaned FBIS a long and medium wave Interference Suppressor for test and evaluation at ECB. Preliminary tests indicate excellent results in eliminating unwanted stations on the same frequency. The unit has been sent by airmail to the Okinawa Bureau for additional on-the-spot operational tests. It is anticipated that the suppressors will substantially aid overseas bureaus in reception of long and medium wave stations. This device was designed especially to meet FBIS requirements.

11. For test and evaluation, and to set up TV recording procedures, a Japanese, Sony Video Tape Recorder has been ordered for headquarters from fiscal year '61 funds. The budget for FY 62 also provides two additional units, one for the Tokyo and one for the Austrian Bureau. Video tape recorders on the American market sell for approximately four times the price of the Sony recorder.

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12. To aid in cruising for possible expansion of TV and FM reception, and monitoring, high quality VHF receivers covering a frequency range of 30 to 300 megacycles have been ordered for most of the bureaus. Antennas will also be ordered when a package unit has been located, or assembled to meet FBIS requirements.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The FBIS 1962 Operating Budget and FY 1963 Preliminary Estimates were submitted in early May.

2. Schultz Bros. Van and Storage Co. in Santa Rosa is now the Vanpac agent for Northern California. Overseas Bureaus now utilizing Vanpac service for return shipment of household effects should advise their agent if a Bureau employee is transferring to the West Coast Bureau.

3. Bureaus are requested to order all forms on Requisition Form No. 88.

4. Starting 1 July 1961 all requests for teletype parts should be submitted on Requisition Form No. 88.

5. The following FBIS regulatory issuances were released during the month of April:

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PERSONNEL NOTES

1. New Employees

Assignment

Clerk Typist
Admin. Staff

STAT

2. Reassignments

From

Editor
Editorial Br.

To

Editor
East Coast Bureau

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Editor
East Coast Bureau

Editor, USSR & EE
Sect., Edi. Br.

STAT

3. Separations

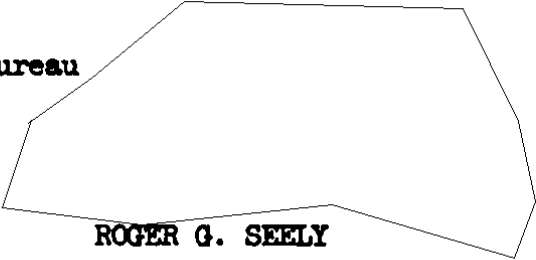


Radio Operator
East Coast Bureau

(Retirement)

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Clerk
Okinawa Bureau



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ROGER G. SEELY

U-N-C-L-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D